

**FOR PUBLICATION
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Appellee,

No. 99-30219

v.

D.C. No.

FRANK JESUS RODRIGUEZ, a.k.a.
Laprada,
Defendant-Appellant.

CR-97-00124-1-JDS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Appellee,

No. 99-30220

v.

D.C. No.

JOSE RAMON LAPRADA-TREVINO,
a.k.a. Jose Pepe Laprada,
Defendant-Appellant.

CR-97-00124-3-JDS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Appellee,

No. 99-30221

v.

D.C. No.

PEDRO HERNANDEZ,
Defendant-Appellant.

CR-97-00124-4-JDS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Appellee,

No. 99-30222

v.

D.C. No.
CR-97-00025-JDS

PEDRO HERNANDEZ,
Defendant-Appellant.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Appellee,

No. 99-30223

v.

D.C. No.
CR-98-00120-JDS

PEDRO HERNANDEZ,
Defendant-Appellant.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Appellee,

No. 99-30224

v.

D.C. No.
CR-98-00120-2-JDS

ROBERTA HERNANDEZ,
Defendant-Appellant.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Appellee,

No. 99-30225

v.

D.C. No.
CR-97-00124-5-JDS

ROBERTA HERNANDEZ,

Defendant-Appellant.

OPINION

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the District of Montana
Jack D. Shanstrom, District Judge, Presiding

Argued and Submitted
August 6, 2001--Seattle, Washington

Filed August 28, 2001

Before: John T. Noonan, A. Wallace Tashima, and
Richard C. Tallman, Circuit Judges.

Opinion by Judge Noonan

COUNSEL

Susan Bryson Fox, Stephen G. Ralls, Ralls, Fox & Jones,
P.C., Tucson, Arizona, for defendant-appellant Frank Jesus
Rodriguez.

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Francisco Leon, Tucson, Arizona, for defendant-appellant
Jose Ramon Laprada-Trevino.

Timothy J. Cavan, Federal Defenders of Montana, Billings,
Montana, for defendant-appellant Pedro Hernandez.

Kelly J. Varnes, Hendrickson, Everson, Noenning & Woodward, P.C., Billings, Montana, for defendant-appellant
Roberta Hernandez.

James E. Seykora, Bernard F. Hubley, Asssitant United States
Attorneys, Billings, Montana, for the plaintiff-appellee.

OPINION

NOONAN, Circuit Judge:

Frank Rodriguez, Jose Ramon Laprada-Trevino, Pedro Hernandez and Roberta Hernandez appeal their convictions following a jury trial and sentences for drug dealing and money laundering. In a separate memorandum disposition filed with this opinion, we affirm the judgments of conviction. In this opinion, we address, the Apprendi issue raised by the sentences imposed.

PROCEEDINGS

Defendants were found guilty and sentenced as follows:

	Pedro Hernandez	Sentence
Count 1	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute <u>and</u> to distribute marijuana in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) & 846 and 18 U.S.C. § 2.	Life imprisonment

Count 2	Possession with intent to distribute and/or distribute over 100 kilograms of marijuana in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 18 U.S.C. § 2.	Life imprisonment
Count 3	Distribution of 6 to 8 pounds of marijuana in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 18 U.S.C. § 2.	10 years
Count 4	Distribution of 12 pounds of marijuana in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 18 U.S.C. § 2.	10 years
Count 5	Distribution of marijuana in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 18 U.S.C. § 2.	10 years
Count 6	Possession with intent to distribute and/or distribution of over 100 kilograms of marijuana in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 18 U.S.C. § 2.	Life imprisonment
Count 7	Possession with intent to distribute and/or distribution of 58 pounds of marijuana in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 18 U.S.C. § 2.	10 years

Count 8	Possession with intent to distribute and/or distribution of over 140 pounds of marijuana in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 18 U.S.C. § 2.	30 years
Count 9 through 18	Transfer by wire of the proceeds from the distribution of marijuana, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1)(A)(1) and 18 U.S.C. § 2.	20 years per count

Roberta Hernandez

Count 1	10 years
Count 2	10 years
Count 3	5 years
Count 4	5 years
Count 5	5 years
Count 6	10 years
Count 7	5 years
Count 8	10 years
Counts 9-18	10 years per count

Jose Ramon Laprada-Trevino

Count 1	14 years 7 months
Count 2	14 years, 7 months
Count 3	10 years
Count 4	5 years
Count 5	5 years
Count 6	14 years, 7 months
Count 7	5 years
Count 8	14 years, 7 months
Counts 9-18	14 years, 7 months per count

Frank Rodriguez

Count 1	20 years
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Count 2	20 years
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Count 3	10 years
Count 4	5 years
Count 5	5 years
Count 6	20 years
Count 7	5 years
Count 8	20 years
Count 9-18	20 years per count

All sentences are concurrent. They were imposed on June 16, 1999. Apprendi v. New Jersey, 530 U.S. 466 (2000), holds that a judge cannot impose a criminal sentence exceeding the statutory maximum for the crime of which the jury has found the defendant guilty. Argument based on Apprendi could not have been made at the sentencing of these appellants. They now appeal their sentences, alleging a violation of Apprendi.

ANALYSIS

The "plain error" standard of review applies. The error must be shown to have "affected the outcome of the district court proceedings." United States v. Olano, 507 U.S. 725, 734 (1993). At sentencing the district court found by a preponderance of the evidence that Pedro Hernandez had been responsible for the distribution of 1,000 kilograms or more of marijuana and imposed the maximum sentence of life imprisonment. The sentence was erroneous under Apprendi. The error resulted in the imposition of life sentences under 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(A)(vii).

The government attempts to salvage the sentence by pointing to Counts 2 and 6 in the indictment charging Hernandez with more than 100 kilograms of marijuana. The difficulty is that the jury was expressly instructed that the government was not required to prove "the amount or quantity of marijuana . . . charged in the indictment. It need only prove beyond a reasonable doubt that there was a measurable

or detectable amount" Under these instructions, the jury cannot be supposed to have determined the amount, and Pedro Hernandez's life sentence cannot stand.

Pedro Hernandez's sentences on counts 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9 through 18 are within the statutory maximums. The other sentences are not. As the total sentence was a package, United States v. Handa, 122 F.3d 690, 691-92 (9th Cir. 1997), we remand for resentencing of Pedro Hernandez on all counts of conviction.

Pedro Hernandez's sentence in the money laundering case (No. 99-30222) was imposed during a consolidated sentencing hearing. Because the district court calculated the sentence in that case based on a guideline which considered the quantity of drugs involved in the marijuana conspiracy case, Pedro Hernandez's sentence in the money laundering case is vacated and remanded for sentencing separate from the marijuana conspiracy sentences.

Roberta Hernandez, Laprada-Trevino and Rodriguez received sentences as though it had been determined that they were responsible for 1,000 kilograms of marijuana. The sentences were erroneous under Apprendi. However, Defendants' sentences for the money laundering offenses related to the marijuana conspiracy case are not erroneous and are equal to or exceed the sentences for the other offenses. Total sentences for Roberta Hernandez, Laprada-Trevino and Rodriguez are within the statutory maximum for offenses of which they were convicted. Therefore, the Apprendi error was harmless and the sentences are affirmed. See United States v. Kentz, 251 F.3d 835, 841-42 (9th Cir. 2001).

The sentences of Roberta Hernandez, Laprada-Trevino and Rodriguez are AFFIRMED. Pedro Hernandez's sentences are VACATED and REMANDED for resentencing.